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## FAITH AND POSITIVITY AS DRIVING FORCES IN THE LIFE OF JOAN OF ARC

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**Abstract:** The present study is about Joan of Arc, the legendary heroine of France, who, with her faith in the Lord and positive attitude towards life accomplished, in a week, what the French had not been able to achieve in years. The study will focus on the concepts of faith and positivity as the driving forces in the life and achievements of Joan of Arc. The paper compasses the humble beginnings of the maid of Orleans, the challenges that she faced and overcame following the commands of the voices, ultimately culminating in great victories at Orleans and finally the coronation of the Dauphin at the Reims cathedral.

**Key words :** Joan of Arc, Jeanne D'arc, Orleans, France, Reims, Cathedral, Dauphin, Faith, Positivity, Lord.

Jeanne d'Arc or Joan of Arc, also referred to as 'the maid of Orleans' was one of the greatest living legends of France and was canonized as a Saint in 1920, almost 500 years after her martyrdom. She was born at a small village named Domremy in northeast France. "She was born on the day of Epiphany, 1412. Her parents Jacques d'Arc and Isabelle Romée, were peasants of the village of Domremy, in the valley of the Meuse." (O'Hagan 38)

She grew up to be a beautiful girl with large eyes and a great imagination. She started her career in life as an introvert loving solitude and silence. "Her soul, dwelling apart, seemed rather to meditate than feel; yet pitiful and tender, with a pity and tenderness embracing something grander and more distant than her own horizon. She prayed without ceasing, said little, and shunned company of her own age." (Lamartine 10) The very fact that Joan prayed ceaselessly accounts for her positive attitude towards life; and her initial withdrawal from the outer world of action strengthened and bolstered that positivity that later helped her to stand up for the greatest cause of her life which was the emancipation of France from the unjust rule and oppression of the English. It is during her period of youth that she experienced total withdrawal from the outer life of action to an inner life of meditation and contemplation. To her God was a reality and she would listen to the voice of God in the silence that surrounded her. The voice of God would take on varied forms of the voices of Saints who would advise her from time to time of what she should do and what she should avoid doing. "She delighted in the chime of the church-bells; and, to induce the ringer to prolong the Angelus, she gave him skeins of woollen yarn to contribute to the autumn-gathering for the poor." (11)

Over and above all this, when Jean heard of the atrocities that the English perpetrated on the French and the gradual capture of several regions of France, she woke up to the great oppression and God commanded her to lead the French armies against the English and free her country groaning under English rule. One day, when Jean was in the garden in the precincts of the church she heard the voice of God calling out to her: "Joan, arise Go to the succor of the dauphin! Restore to him his kingdom of France!" (12)

Joan cried out to the Lord that she was but a helpless and an untutored girl and what could she do to save France from the oppression of the English. The voice instructed her to be fearless and repair to the castle of Sire De Baudricourt who would surely aid her in gaining access to the Dauphin who would make arrangements to provide her with an armour, a horse and an army to attack and overcome the English who were becoming bolder at every siege that they undertook in France. This incident of the inspiration that Joan drew from the command of the Lord filled her with positivity from head to toe and now there was no force on earth that could hinder her progress towards the emancipation of her country from the unjust occupation by the English.

Though it seemed an insane proposal for an illiterate girl in her teens to approach the captain of Vaucouleurs the Sire De Baudricourt and ask him to lend her a horse and a few soldiers who would escort her to the Dauphin of France, yet the maid Joan was now bent upon following the voice of God notwithstanding the obstacles she would have to face. She ignored people who mocked her patriotic endeavour and with immense faith in the voice of God sallied forth from her home for the sole purpose of meeting the captain and expressing in clear terms to him the command of God.

“The Voices, and the shining cloud, and the faces of Saints and angels came, several times every week, and a Voice said, “Daughter of God, go on! I will be with you.” (Lang 21)

One fine day in January Joan and her cousin Laxart went to meet Baudricourt. Joan, at this point in history, was “a strong, well-made girl, dark-haired, rather pretty, dressed in coarse red stuff, like peasant girls of her condition.” (Lowell 39) Joan met Baudricourt and expressed in clear words the command of God that she must go and meet Charles VII in order to help in the emancipation of France from the English. Baudricourt looked at Joan in a light fashion, laughed at her behaviour, what according to him was presumptuous and told Laxart to take her home and give her a sound thrashing. Though it was quite humiliating to Joan, yet she did not give up and this was because of her immense faith in God and the voices. The voices kept encouraging her despite her initial pitfall and goaded her to find means to meet the Dauphin. The condition of Charles was becoming precarious day after day with the regular defeat of the French at English hands. When Joan insisted again and again on lending her assistance in the form of an escort to the Dauphin, Baudricourt had to ultimately give in because “as day by day the political and military situation of Charles VII became more critical, Baudricourt, despairing of any human assistance, grew less brutal in his refusals to listen to this girl who offered him supernatural aid.” (Julleville 18) Ultimately Baudricourt was convinced of the need to equip the girl and send her in an escort to the Dauphin and give France the only bleak chance to save itself through the doubtful help of the unskilled and illiterate girl of Domremy.

Finally on 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1429 Joan, escorted by Sieurs De Metz, De Poulengy, squires and six men at arms, left for Chinon and the eleven day journey was a historic one. With Joan in the garb of a page, the whole party set out on a long journey of four hundred and fifty miles through enemy territory; and the travel was beset with several obstacles in the form of brigands and ferocious gangs of marauders. Even on this long journey it was the faith of Joan in the omnipresence of God that helped her to tide over the difficulties that they faced during the journey. Joan was the positive leader of the group and also the one who kept all of the people cheerful on the way by her talk of God and his will. It is Joan again who kept them fearless despite all the challenges they had to undergo during the lengthy travail. Part of their journey lay through marshes and a portion of their trek was through trackless jungles and often they had to cross rivers and meet with dense frosts in the night. But Joan was never fatigued on any account whatsoever. On the other hand, “through all the dangers and difficulties the Maid, always fresh, always alert, led her party, buoyed up with the thought of her mission.” (Whetnall 64) Faith always lit her darkest paths and never allowed her to deviate from the purpose of her mortal existence which was the immediate rescue of France from its enemies who were laying waste to all the villages and plundering all the towns and cities for wealth.

Another great difficulty that Joan faced on the way was that of the fatigue of the journey that her companions complained about. They believed that Joan, on account of being in a hurry, was accountable for all the tiredness and trouble they were facing. Joan in this manner was a burning ember who was flaming forth on its mission, aired and aided by the immense faith in the voice of God. For her, though the well being of her companions did matter, what concerned her more was that they were losing precious time that ought to be given to the French army, inspiring it to rise to the occasion and with faith in God charge at the enemy and compel it to leave France. The party also had a miraculous escape from an ambush laid by a certain group of nobles of Dauphin's' court who were afraid of losing power if the peasant girl grew in favor with the Dauphin. Even for this escape from feuding and treacherous nobles, Joan was beholden to God who had promptly saved them from the cruel clutches of ignominious death and Joan knew that none would be able to thwart the plan that the Almighty had already unfolded to her and was mercifully directing her every hour of the day. Whenever doubts assailed her companions she came up with the following consolation for them and it is worded as follows: "Have no fear," she answered us, "what I am com-manded to do, I will do; my brothers in Paradise have told me how to act : it is four or five years since my brothers in Paradise and my Lord—that is, God—told me that I must go and fight in order to regain the kingdom of France." (67)

Jean De Metz, one of her companions during the arduous journey proclaims these wonderful things about Joan that enhances our love and respect for the Saint :

She inspired me with such respect that for nothing in the world would I have dared to molest her; also never did I feel towards her—I say it on oath any carnal desire. On the way she always wished to hear Mass. She said to us : "If we can, we shall do well to hear Mass." But from fear of being recognized we were only able to hear it twice. I had absolute faith in her. Her words and her ardent faith in God inflamed me. I believe she was sent from God; she never swore, she loved to attend Mass, she confessed often, and was zealous in giving alms. Many times was I obliged to hand out to her the money she gave for the love of God. While we were with her, we found her always good, simple, pious, an excellent Christian, well-behaved, God-fearing. When we arrived at Chinon we presented our-selves to the King's Court and Council. I know she had there to submit to long inquiries. When she arrived at Chinon, she found that her reputation had preceded her. The people welcomed her as a liberator. But the feeling of the Court was against her. (67-68)

After Joan reached Chinon she had a herculean task before her since Charles was surrounded by all sorts of people most of whom were dishonest and avaricious. Thus her first difficulty lay in confiding in someone who would introduce her directly to the dauphin because enough time had already been lost in her long journey from Domremy to Chinon. Charles himself was a weakling and he hardly had the confidence that a crown prince is supposed to possess. That is the reason it became very significant that Joan came in time to rescue Charles from all the confusion and treachery that was surrounding him in the form of scheming people around him. Therefore on reaching Chinon Joan asked to be shown directly to the Dauphin but people loyal to him refused her this request stating that unless the dauphin knew what the errand was , he would not allow anyone to go close to him. Finally, Joan had to offer her explanation to them in the following words. She said that "she had two commands laid upon her by the King of Heaven, one, to raise the siege of Orleans, the other, to lead Charles to Rheims that he might be crowned and consecrated there."(Lowell 56)

Metz and Poulengy, her companions during the long travail, had been personal witnesses to her goodness and godliness; and therefore they had only good to report of her. At the same time the officials surrounding the dauphin were sceptical about Joan as they weren't sure if the powers attributed to her were of Godly origin or the result of her being a witch. Therefore priests, clergymen and those dealing in black magic were appointed to discover whether her powers were angelic or had their origins in some demon worship.

Discovering that her authenticity was genuine and seemed to be God inspired, the clergy informed the dauphin that the girl appeared to be heaven sent and was in earnest and therefore the dauphin should at least listen to what she had to say.

Charles VII or the dauphin finally yielded and decided to give an audience to Joan. The great hall of the palace was well lit and curious courtiers, having come to know of the meeting, assembled there. The dauphin and his

loyals were waiting for the arrival of the girl from Domremy. Soon enough, escorted by Louis of Bourbon, Joan appeared in public view. The dauphin had decided to test the miraculous powers of Joan and therefore he hid himself among his courtiers and waited for Joan to come and discover him. Joan was dressed in black and white and her eyes glowed with an unearthly light. The voices within her had been guiding her at every step of her arduous journey and they did so even now. They directed her to where Charles was hiding amidst the crowd.

Without further ado Joan spoke to Charles in the following fashion: "Gentle Dauphin," she began, "I have come to you on a message from God, to bring help to you and to your kingdom." (57) She further informed him that she had been commanded by God to raise the siege of Orleans and later conduct Charles to the Rheims. Charles spoke to her at length and sent her away to the tower informing her that soon he would get things ready for the siege of Orleans. Joan was now eager to set out on the mission that God had made her for, yet the delay occurred due to several reasons, the chief being that an earlier attempt of securing Orleans from English onslaught had totally failed and the army sent out for the purpose had been disbanded; and moreover the resources for building up the army again were lacking. The courage, confidence and enthusiasm of the French rulers were at their lowest ebb and nobody, it seems, was willing to throw away his life in an enterprise which they thought was bound to fail. Joan, who was awaiting the orders of the dauphin, was again put to test by several people who still doubted the capability of the nineteen year old girl in raising the siege of Orleans since no woman before her had dared to even think of such a thing, leave alone the undertaking and the success of it. Joan underwent all the tests put to her and came out successful with the name of the Lord ever playing on her lips. With her faith and positivity pushing her to accept new challenges every day she never felt disheartened even on account of the delay. Finally the day arrived when Joan sallied forth from Chinon at the head of a large army of French soldiers and supporters to fight for the cause of the people of their country and defeat the evil designs of the English at Orleans.

Orleans was very strategically located and if the English were able to capture it they would fundamentally get access to the whole of France and therefore that way Orleans was the gateway to France through the river Loire. This is what Lord Roland Gower observes about the town of Orleans:

The town was strongly fortified; huge towers of immense thickness, and three stories in height, surrounded by deep and wide moats, encircled the city. The only bridge then in existence was also strongly defended with towers, called 'Les Tournelles,' while at the end of the town side of the bridge were large 'bastilles,' powerful fortresses which dated from the year 1417, when Henry V. threatened Orleans after his triumphal march through Normandy. In 1421 the Orleanists defied the victor of Agincourt: again they were in the agony of a desperate defence against their invaders, ready to sustain all the horrors of a siege. (Gower 39)

The English till now had been able to capture and consolidate the outskirts of Orleans and Salisbury was the commander of the English. When the French observed that the enemy would soon advance towards the main town, they began to fortify themselves with cannons and catapults that were placed on the walls and ramparts of the fortified city. In this patriotic duty, not just soldiers and men, but also priests, women and even children contributed their own part.

From the French side Dunois and Raol De Gaucourt were commanding the besieged garrison. Salisbury the English commander crossed the Loire on 12th October 1428 in order to establish himself on the bridge that connected Orleans to other parts of France. His purpose was to cut off Orleans from getting help from other parts of France and in this way he would be able to isolate and besiege Orleans in totality. Though Salisbury showered the town with big stones, his attack was returned in double by all the French who were manning the walls and the ramparts of Orleans. Salisbury had to recede and wait for an opportunity to resume the volley of stones on the town. It chanced that in the evening Salisbury had climbed one of the towers to inspect the town from a great height and as he was moving about incautiously a cannon ball was fired from unknown quarters. This cannon shot hit him directly on the head and Salisbury fell. He was taken away to be nursed and after a few days the news of his death was known. In this way, the English for the time being, had lost a great chance of overpowering the town of Orleans. It is believed that this cannon shot was fired by a young boy. "While gazing on it, a stray cannon shot struck him on the face; he was carried, mortally wounded, from the place. That fatal shot was said to have been fired by a lad, who, finding a loaded cannon on the ramparts, had discharged it. For the English, it was the deadliest shot of the whole war." (42) After the loss of Salisbury the siege of Orleans by the English suffered a temporary

suspension until Glansdale succeeded as the new commander. But it is only when Lord Talbot joined the forces that the real onslaught on Orleans resumed with great vigour.

The hostilities resumed with the English who started to bombard the enemy camps with their massive stones; and the French were quick to pay back with their fiery culverin throwing bombs on the English who were burned and scarred in large numbers. The English were reinforcing themselves continuously in order not to get outnumbered by the French who were also gathering in large numbers to protect Orleans. To the Duke of Suffolk's large support, Sir John Fastolfe added his twelve hundred men in the month of January 1429. The English forces led by commanders like Glansdale, Talbot, Fastolfe and Suffolk came to a total of four thousand five hundred soldiers. On the other hand, the total number of French soldiers and armed citizens amounted to more than six thousand. And thus in terms of numbers the French were certainly in a better position than the English. The lower number of English soldiers employed for the siege were on account of the fact that the other soldiers were part of the garrisons that safeguarded the already conquered places of France both in the south and the north. The siege slowed down considerably owing to the biting winter and the besiegers rose to their optimum strength only from the month of February onwards and it was only at such a time that a decisive battle took place.

The battle of herrings was fought when a convoy of French soldiers carrying herrings was attacked by the English and in the onslaught the barrels containing herrings toppled from the carts and burst, scattering the fish all over the fields. In this battle the French were defeated and two brave Scots also gave up their life in trying to defend the French. After this battle the position of the people living in Orleans became even more dangerous and therefore they frantically sought the help of Charles and that help not forthcoming they pleaded for the aid of the Duke of Burgundy who did his best by sending help that was possible. With the passage of each day the English started to close in and bombard them from all directions possible. The English army had constructed towers in all the four directions from where they would continuously shower volleys of cannonade that made the life of the dwellers of Orleans a veritable hell. "By the month of April, Orleans was girdled by a chain of fortresses, from which the cannonade was incessant. The English gave names of French towns to these huge towers which threatened Orleans on every side; one they named Paris, another Rouen, and one other they called London." (45)

Thirty thousand men, women and children who were surrounded on all sides by the enemy who made their life hell from hour to hour were badly in need of succour. Their very existence was in jeopardy since the cannonade of the English was being fired incessantly from all directions and therefore survival in such dire circumstances had become a big question. And God was sending help to them in the form of Joan. "Towards the end of April Joan arrived at Blois from Poitiers, accompanied by the Archbishop of Rheims, Regnault de Chartres. On the 27th of April she left Blois on her first warlike expedition." (46) The queen mother of Charles had been in full support of Joan and therefore she had collected a large troop of soldiers to help her in the mission of saving Orleans. Though it cannot be proclaimed with certainty about the number of soldiers who followed Joan in the mission, yet Joan, during her trial, had asserted that she had been followed by twelve thousand devoted soldiers.

Joan was a saint even before being a soldier and a warrior; and the qualities of love and forgiveness were foremost in her heart. Though she knew of the atrocities committed by the English on the innocent French people, she still wanted to offer a last chance to the English to surrender all the lands they had captured back to the people of France and leave for their home country England in peace. She therefore drafted a long letter to the Duke of Bedford which ran thus:

In the name of Jesus and Mary—You, King of England; and you, Duke of Bedford [Bethfort], who call yourself Regent of France; you, William de la Pole; you, Earl of Suffolk; you, John Lord Talbot [Thalebot]; and you, Thomas Lord Scales, who call yourselves Lieutenants of the said Bedford, in the name of the King of Heaven, render the keys of all the good towns which you have taken and violated in France, to the Maid sent hither by the King of Heaven. She is ready to make peace if you will consent to return and to pay for what you have taken. And all of you, soldiers, and archers, and men-at-arms, now before Orleans, return to your country, in God's name. If this is not done, King of England, I, as a leader in war, whenever I shall meet with your people in France, will oblige them to go whether they be willing or not; and if they go not, they will perish; but if they will depart I will pardon them. I have come from the King of Heaven to drive you out [bouter] of France. And

do not imagine that you will ever permanently hold France, for the true heir, King Charles, shall possess it, for it is God's wish that it should belong to him. And this has been revealed to him by the Maid, who will enter Paris. If you will not obey, we shall make such a stir [ferons un si gros hahaye] as hath not happened these thousand years in France. The Maid and her soldiers will have the victory. Therefore the Maid is willing that you, Duke of Bedford, should not destroy yourself.(47)

In the meanwhile Joan was advancing towards Orleans, singing all the way the praises of the lord; and her idea was to advance openly, facing the enemy and giving them a befitting battle. Later on, when Jean realized that she was being led through safe routes she wished to express her anger and when Dunois came to meet her at the village of Checy she spoke to Dunois in a sharp tone thus: " 'Are you the Bastard of Orleans?' 'I am, and glad am I of your coming,' says he. 'Is it you,' blazes forth the angry Maid, 'who gave counsel that I should come by this side of the river, and not against Talbot and his English at once.'"(Buxton 74) Dunois answered that it was he and other well wishers of hers who had suggested the safe road for her to follow. Upon this reply, she further upbraided him saying that God's counsel was superior to any and hence all of them should follow what God commands them to do instead of deceiving themselves by following human advice. Dunois's respect and goodwill towards Joan restored her to her usual cheerful attitude and manner and soon with Joan's prayers and the Lord's decree the provisions meant for the soldiers landed safely at the shores of Orleans without interference from the English.

Since the army had to return to Blois for bringing up another convoy of soldiers, Dunois suggested to Joan to enter the city with him through the Burgundian gate. Though Joan was loth to leave the soldiers who were facing so much of hardship on her account, she consented to accompany Dunois for propriety's sake. Joan, accompanied by Dunois and a few soldiers entered the city gates and was given a warm welcome by the armed citizens who were overjoyed to behold their would be saviour dressed all in white and so angelic in her appearance. Even the small children and the old people of the city thronged to have a glimpse of the fair maiden in the bright armour who had come as their saviour at such an hour of peril. "For," says an eyewitness of those things, "they had suffered many disturbances, labours, and pains, and what is worse, great doubt whether they ever should be delivered. But now all were comforted, as if the siege were over, by the divine strength that was in this simple Maid whom they regarded most affectionately — men, women, and little children."(75) People in general felt so blessed in beholding her that they pressed very close to her, some trying to touch her robe for a blessing, some trying to touch at least the horse on which she sat and the scene was marvelous to behold that only a painter could do justice in depicting it's charm.

Thankful to the Lord for her safe arrival at Orleans, Joan first went to the church of the Holy Rood and prayed fervently before the altar. Later, as the day was closing, she went to the house of the treasurer of Orleans Jacques Boucher where she removed her heavy armour; and thanking the Lord for directing her and helping her throughout the day, she finally shared the bed of the little Charlotte, the nine year old daughter of the treasurer. This was the second significant step in the accomplishment of her mission at Orleans. Her arrival in Orleans was a positive sign that was visible, since it renewed the enthusiasm of the soldiers and the citizens to fight the English and drive them back to their country. Joan, with her saintly aura and sweetness, kept the eagerness of the French warriors under control since her first step was going to be to persuade the English to surrender rather than attack them without notice. This way she wished to give them a fair chance and with all these human considerations, she was awaiting a reply to the letter she had drafted to the commander of the English forces, asking the English to surrender up the French towns and villages they had captured and return in safety.

Two emissaries had been sent to the English with Joan's letter and ultimately only one of them returned reporting that the other messenger had been captured by the English against rules of battle and they had threatened to burn him for conspiring against them with a witch.

The same evening Joan climbed the rampart and summoned the English in the name of God: "Surrender in the name of God, and I will grant you your lives." (78)

The English, it appears, were not sensitive enough to heed to her soft and humanly appeals and therefore instead of taking her message seriously, they held it in total contempt; and instead of trying to come to some understanding with Joan and the French army, the leaders, proud as they were of their hold on the soil of France,

began to hurl abuses at her; and Commander Glansdale even had the audacity to call her a witch and that she would be burnt once they had her in their captivity. And Joan, who was so brave in battle and fearless, wept like a child; her innocence being made a mockery of and her womanhood being put to shame by those cruel words.

The next day, which was a Sunday, Dunois went to meet the main army that was to arrive at Orleans any time. The day was one of peace before the war and the citizens, full of curiosity and zeal and devotion to their new leader, went to the dwelling of the treasurer where Joan had taken shelter. They crowded to the dwelling and begged her to lead them against the English forces; but Joan, who knew their overenthusiastic manner, mounted her horse and led them to a church where all prayed together. The whole day they went from church to church praying for the success of the great endeavour that was ahead of the French army and Joan's fervour at each prayer session increased rather than diminished, unlike with most people whose devotion dwindles to a mere lip service with every successive prayer and ultimately becomes a monotonous drawl.

Joan offered another chance to the English to surrender when she was on horseback down the road towards Blois. When she saw a band of English soldiers she spoke to them in a serious and dignified manner observing: "Surrender, and your lives shall be spared. In God's name go back to England. If not, I will make you suffer for it." (78) The soldiers jeered for a time and returned saying aloud that they would never surrender to a woman.

In the meantime Dunois was returning with a convoy of provisions and a big French army; and soon after arrival he informed Joan that John Fastolfe was marching towards Orleans accompanied by thousands of soldiers. Joan told Dunois to inform her as soon as Fastolfe arrived at the outskirts of Orleans. In the meanwhile, Joan, who was tired, after a long ride around the walls, lay down to rest in the bed of her hostess. After some time, finding that there was peace both outside and inside the house, Joan's equerry, who was also fatigued after the day's proceedings, lay down to take some rest. Hardly had he lain down, when Joan suddenly sprung up in animation and started to utter expressions like, "Oh Lord! What did you command me just now? I should be alert and attack the English! Whom do I attack, the English occupying the forts or the English who are on their way led by John Fastolfe?"

And the Lord's reminder turned out to be true because soon she heard loud cries issuing from the neighbourhood and d'Aulon was told that the French had already begun to attack the English but were being beaten back with force and many French soldiers were wounded and one had just lost his life after the attack they had made. Joan commanded d'Aulon to help in putting on her armour and subsequently she sallied forth on her horse. This was going to be Joan's first battle as a warrior against the English. As soon as her soldiers saw her riding towards the bastille from which they had been ignobly repulsed, they rallied around her and all of them attacked the English as a group, Joan leading them from the front. "For three hours the fight lasted, and all the while this child of seventeen, with her dread of bloodshed and fear of wounds, rode in the forefront, or, springing from her horse, stood on the edge of the moat in the midst of a hail of arrows and cannon balls, cheering on her men." (80-81) Soon Talbot brought reinforcements for the English but by then it was too late and Joan was already riding back to Orleans, victorious after her first battle with the English. Joan subsequently brought many victories to the French with her faith in the Lord and her positive attitude towards life. "In less than a week this country maiden of seventeen years had accomplished the feat which had baffled the wisest soldiers of France for seven long months, and had driven the foemen from the walls of the beleaguered city." (87)

Finally the day came when the coronation of Charles VII was to take place at Reims. The coronation is beautifully described by Wilmot Buxtom in the following lines:

The Archbishop of Rheims administered the Coronation Oath; he crowned and anointed the King; while all the people cried, "Noel!" \*The trumpets sounded so that you might think the roofs would be rent. And always during that Mystery, the Maid stood next the King, her standard in her hand. A right fair thing it was to see the goodly manners of the King and the Maid." When the Dauphin had been crowned and consecrated, the Maid bent and embraced his knees, weeping for joy and saying these words: "Gentle King, now is accomplished the Will of God, who decreed that I should raise the siege of Orleans, and bring you to this city of Rheims to receive your solemn sacring, thereby showing that you are true King, and that France should be yours." "And right great pity came upon all those who saw her, and many wept." The task of Jeanne d'Arc, as given her by her Voices, had been accomplished, and up to that moment nothing but the most extraordinary success had been hers. (101)

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